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MAY 2023

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What's up with broadband in western Loudoun?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

If you drove down Lincoln Road south of Purcellville in mid-April and saw crews running fiber underground to several homes, did you think—hope, perhaps—that this was the launch of the long-awaited Loudoun County-All Points Broadband high-speed internet installation for western Loudoun?

Sorry. Those homes were getting fiber from a small, local, privately funded company called Cladded Glass, named for the silica strands and covering we know as “optical fiber.” According to co-owner Warren Van Der Mewre, Cladded Glass has installed fiber 100 percent

underground to some 200 homes in an area between the village of Lincoln south to Snickersville Turnpike and from Mt. Gilead west to Silcott Springs Road.

For 8,629 other rural homes unserved or underserved by broadband and designated as part of the County’s western project, it will be summer of 2024 before they are expected to have fiber service, with the lines strung to their homes from nearby utility poles. A final 180 homes, missed in the original count but due to be added to the project through a County RFP, should see their service installed by July 2025.

As Dave Friedrich, Loudoun County

Assistant Director of Information Technology, told the Board of Supervisors on April 18, the All Points Broadband (APB) project essentially breaks down into two parts: (1) the Make-Ready Construction (MRC) process and (2) the fiber installation. During Make-Ready, Dominion Energy or NOVEC must visit 10,600 utility poles to generate individual applications and permits for attaching the fiber. By April, they had completed 4,944 poles. But because of the increasing number of statewide projects awarded grants in 2022 through the Virginia (VA) Telecommunications Initiative, or VATI,

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VOTED BEST OF LOUDOUN

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Purcellville Town Council appoints Glen T. Adams as interim town manager

At its Budget Work Session on April 26, the Purcellville Town Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Glen T. Adams as Interim Town Manager. He started his first day on Friday, April 28.

Adams, who recently served as city manager of Santa Fe, TX, brings to Purcellville a track record of inclusive leadership, community involvement, business advancement, consensus building, conflict resolution, police department stabilization, fiscal discipline, and strategic planning.

He is also known for building strong relationships with regional governments. In Texas, for example, he created a coalition of three cities, Galveston County, and the Water District to develop drainage plans that resolved routine flooding in Santa Fe, parts of the two other cities, and areas in the county, all within normal

budget planning.

Prior to taking up his Santa Fe city post, Adams served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and then spent another five years as civilian chief of staff at the White Sands Missile Range, NM, with a population of 6,000, a full-time equivalent workforce of 1,400, and an annual budget of \$240 million.

Adams also served as Facilities Branch Chief, U.S. Force Japan, and as Engineer Force Manager, U.S. Army Forces Command in Atlanta, GA, a job equivalent to COO of a 45,000-person company with a worldwide footprint. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1985, earned a Reserve commission in 1988, graduated from Washington State University in 1989, and went on active duty in 1990.

“I am truly excited about coming to Purcellville,”



L to R: Purcellville Mayor Stan Milan, Interim Town Manager Glen Adams, and Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut at the Purcellville Music and Arts Festival on April 29.

Adams says. “From what I have read and seen, the citizens are really part of a wonderful community, and my wife, Bridget, and I are looking forward to being part of the Purcellville family.”

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“It started out as a normal outing. My wife and I had to run to the grocery store. We were driving down the road casually going over our shopping list when the car ahead of me started to slow down anticipating the yellow light.

I started to move my foot from the gas to the brake as any normal person would do when they see brake lights in front of them but I couldn't. I couldn't feel my foot.

The car kept moving forward and I just couldn't get my foot on the brake. And CRUNCH! I finally came to a stop when I hit the car in front of me.”

This tragic story was shared with us by Dan S., an Ashburn resident, who has peripheral neuropathy. And while no one was hurt in this accident, Dan S. had suffered almost every day of his life with tingling and burning in his feet until numbness set in and he could no longer feel even the brake pedal beneath his foot.

“The first stage is pain.” shares Rachal Lohr, Acupuncturist of FIREFLY Acupuncture & Wellness. “You feel burning, tingling, sharp pains, or you feel like you're walking on tacks or marbles. This pain eventually subsides and the numbness sets in. Unfortunately the numbness brings with it a whole other host of problems.”

This was the case with Dan. “I said I wasn't going to drive again. What if that had been a pedestrian?”

It is terribly common that peripheral neuropathy and its debilitating symptoms interfere with a person's ability to live their life. Dan was now reliant on his wife to drive him around, even the simple pleasure of cruising down to play golf or taking her out to dinner was outside his capabilities. And even more common, Dan's general practitioner and several specialists told him there was nothing they could do other than prescribe him pills that would ease the pain of his neuropathy.

That's where Rachal Lohr and her staff at FIREFLY come in. “About 75% of our current patients come to us suffering from the same condition as Mr. Dan,” tells Rachal.

“They're in constant pain from neuropathy and it prevents them from not only living their lives but more importantly, it prevents them from enjoying it.

Depending on the severity of their nerve damage, we typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months of treatment. I like to say we're in the business of making your golden years golden.”

“I can't lie,” confides Dan.

“I was skeptical at first. The folks down at my pain center told me there was nothing that could be done and then there's a doctor right here in Loudoun who tells me she can help. Turns out she was right! About three months after treatment I was able to confidently drive myself to my appointments!

My wife and I celebrated by buying ourselves a new car! It's hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Rachal] gave me my life back.”

While FIREFLY specializes in acupuncture and it's definitely part of their protocols in treating neuropathy, the real secret is in a more modern medical solution called ATP Resonance BioTherapy™. “This technology was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery” shares Ann, a Senior Patient Care Coordinator at the clinic. “It's like watering a plant. ATP Resonance BioTherapy™ stimulates the blood vessels to grow back around the peripheral nerve and provide them the proper nutrients to heal and repair.”

You can learn more about Rachal Lohr and FIREFLY at FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com. If you're ready to schedule a consultation call (703)263-2142 and do so quickly.

FIREFLY is a very intimate clinic and the staff takes pride in their ability to take their time with each patient so they are very limited in their ability to take on new patients.

Visit www.FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer!

The Leader of the Band

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, Rick Reaves was recognized by the Town of Purcellville for his decades of teaching, volunteering and contributing to the betterment of the community. After Mayor Stan Milan read through an extensive list of achievements, Reaves remarked on what a pleasure it has been to live, teach and volunteer “in such a wonderful place. It’s truly been a blessing.”

On the eve of his retirement, after 40 plus years of teaching, Reaves looks at this award as special though it is one of many recognitions he has received as a musician, teacher, band leader, volunteer firefighter and coach.

Reaves’ lifelong love of music stemmed from his very early exposure to compositions spanning from jazz to classical. He was just seven years old when he started on drums. Growing up in Endicott, New York, Reaves participated in marching bands (fife and drum, bugle corps). However, it was his love of the tuba that brought him to Union college in Kentucky on a full scholarship.



Reaves describes going after a junior grant that enabled him to bring a music program to Saint Camillus school in nearby Corbin, KY. He was able to start this initiative while still studying at college. This would set a precedent for establishing/ramping up future music programs in Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia schools.

Reaves taught at Shepherd, Jefferson High School and another W.V. school. Having moved to Loudoun County in 1983 with his wife Nancy, Reaves would be hired by Loudoun



County Public Schools in 1994. While at Park View HS, he would establish an all-county jazz group featuring guest artists and achieving all-district top status. He helped restart the all-state jazz band which had been inactive for some eight years. Reaves adds that in his early years in Loudoun, “there were four high schools and now there are eighteen!”

As he and Nancy raised their three children, Jason, Jasmine and Jen, and 1999 marked the year that Reaves joined Loudoun Valley High School where he would run the band program. Reaves also continued to direct, sing and play the trombone in his 16-piece jazz band – a favorite at holiday performances, music festivals and special concerts in the region. Reaves also does play “Taps” each year as a featured part of Purcellville’s program to commemorate Memorial Day.

During his time in Loudoun, Reaves would volunteer for the local fire department and coach County Rec baseball (for 13 years) as well as softball. The band program at LVHS would turn out to have an impact on generations of students and win numerous awards and accolades.

As Reaves reflects upon what he is most proud of, he simply says, “all of the kids that made fantastic music over the years ... it’s the reason I get up every morning.” And what of all of those students? Reaves indicates that several are on concert tours, one is in the L.A. Symphony, fifteen are high school or middle school band directors and “many are making a living in music.” He feels he has influenced a good number to enter into the fire and rescue units as well.

As a forty-year volunteer firefighter, Reaves helped to put forth significant accomplishments – a new fire and rescue building in Purcellville and bringing about the Loudoun County Combined Fire and Rescue to name a few.

Reaves plans to spend his retirement taking some trips by train. He also wants to catch up on many projects on his farm. With constant rehearsals throughout the year, he has not had the time to devote to “clean up” the property. He is also looking forward to spending time with his grown children and their families. There are grandchildren who he can

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Just like nothing (else) on earth: Tillett Auction Barn

BY TIM JON

Being a one-man-band as News Director at a small market radio station – a couple of decades ago – could be a remarkably difficult and frustrating experience – especially in one of the busiest, wealthiest and fastest growing counties in the known universe. It also came with some surprising and very simple pleasures.



It was the memory of one of these bucolic and pastoral discoveries that kept percolating out of the past as I took a few steps from my car to capture some shots at a once-thriving local place of commerce and culture – the Tillett Auction Barn stood empty, desolate and seemingly ready for demolition as I paid my informal and only visit on a recent trip through some of the “no-man’s land” of eastern Loudoun.

There was no merchandise on display,

no milling crowds of potential buyers, no staccato auctioneer vocals amplified through a Jerry-rigged speaker system – and none of the magic spirit that had pervaded every live auction I’d ever attended. All the same, I could hear, smell and just about touch some of the livestock animals that I will always remember from the annual Loudoun County Fair – which still enjoys a spot along the Catoctin Ridge a couple of miles west of Leesburg.

I’d been ‘baptized’ into this yearly event during the first summer of my tenure as chief storyteller at Wage Radio – by our General Manager at the time, the inimitable Chuck Thornton. Not that I didn’t try to imitate him; anyone recalling this larger-than-life, they-broke-the-mold- (or threw it away) when-they-made-him character will forgive my transgressions. Chuck was, and probably still is, irresistible as fodder for comedy.



So (as if it were yesterday) we’re in the 4-H auction barn (the old one that is adjacent to Sykes Hall, I believe) at the County Fair and I’m guided through the crucial coverage points for this event: who raised the biggest pig this season? Which local sponsor came up with the scratch to buy the grand prize steer – to be converted into steaks, for sale at your favorite supermarket?

Did the ‘fairest’ cakes and pies make everyone’s mouth water and cry for ice cream? And which contestant, among a select group of prominent citizens, collected the most votes (and monetary contributions) in the Kiss-a-Pig Contest? Yes, Virginia – you read correctly. The winner in this annual fundraiser for the Fair had the dubious pleasure of puckering up with a squealing,

squirming and sometimes wildly kicking porker.

This was, in my professional opinion, Loudoun County news at its – if not best – at least at its most unforgettable, endearing and completely disarming. One year the winner kissed both ends of the creature in question. Upon these moments and much more was I turned loose upon by my professional media mentor, Chuck Thornton.

And all of this aforementioned, well-remembered swirl of sights and sounds and smells accompanied me as I paid my sole, early-morning visit to the Tillett Auction Barn on Belmont Ridge Road, as it stood silent and deserted and – to all observation – forgotten. I’ve read that its future may include a transformation into a service station for motorists, and for all we know, this may go a long way toward pleasing the spirits within these walls – if, that is – the structure survives demolition.

I’m probably not the only poetic dreamer out here who thinks it would be cool to keep the shell of the building intact for whatever incoming enterprise

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The impact of social media on ADHD: separating fact from fiction

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Social media is ubiquitous, and while it’s a great way to stay connected to important others, to get news and to learn about what’s going on in the world, overusing or over relying on social media has become a problem for many people. As a psychologist, I am often asked about the impact of social media overuse and whether or not it can cause ADHD.

With the rise of social media and technology, it’s important to separate fact from fiction when it comes to ADHD and its relationship with these platforms.

Self-Diagnosing ADHD on social media

One of the biggest issues with social media is the ease at which people can self-diagnose themselves with conditions like ADHD. While this might seem like a harmless act, it can actually be quite dangerous. Not only are self-diagnosis attempts often inaccurate, but they can also lead to people seeking out unnecessary treatment or medication.



Ask Dr. Mike

By Michael
Oberschneider, Psy.D.

Of course, problems with sustained attention and concentration, task persistence, distractibility, impulsivity and/or hyperactivity can be due to ADHD, but keep in mind that those sorts of symptoms are also consistent with other conditions (e.g., learning disorders, anxiety, etc.).

Another issue with self-diagnosing ADHD on social media is the misinformation that is spread on these platforms. From Tik Tok videos to Facebook posts, there are countless sources of information on ADHD (and ADHD treatments) that can be misleading or simply untrue. This can result in people being misinformed about the condition and its symptoms, leading to even more inaccurate self-diagnoses.

Given the large amount of on-line information available to people these days, it’s important to rely on credible sources when doing research.

Children’s Hospital, the Mayo Clinic, or even WebMD, are going to give you more reliable and helpful information on ADHD than TikTok or other social media platforms. It’s essential to have accurate information in order to make informed decisions about one’s health and well-being.

Does Social Media Cause ADHD in Children and Adults?

While there is no clear answer to this question, some studies have shown a link between excessive screen time and the development of ADHD-like symptoms. This is especially true for children who are more susceptible to the negative effects of too much screen time (i.e. increased impulsivity and distractibility).

So why are ADHD diagnoses on the

rise? There has been much debate over the years about whether or not the increase in ADHD diagnoses is due to technology and social media. While some experts believe that technology and social media have contributed to an increase in ADHD diagnoses, others argue that the increase is simply due to better awareness and improved diagnostic tools – it’s important to note that more research is needed to fully understand the relationship between social media and technology use and ADHD.

That being said, as a psychologist, I always advise my clients to limit their screen time and to be mindful of the impact it may have on their mental health. For parents, the American Academy of Pediatrics provides research based tips on screen time management for children and teens, which can be found at: www.aap.org/en/patient-care/media-and-children/.

In conclusion, the current research

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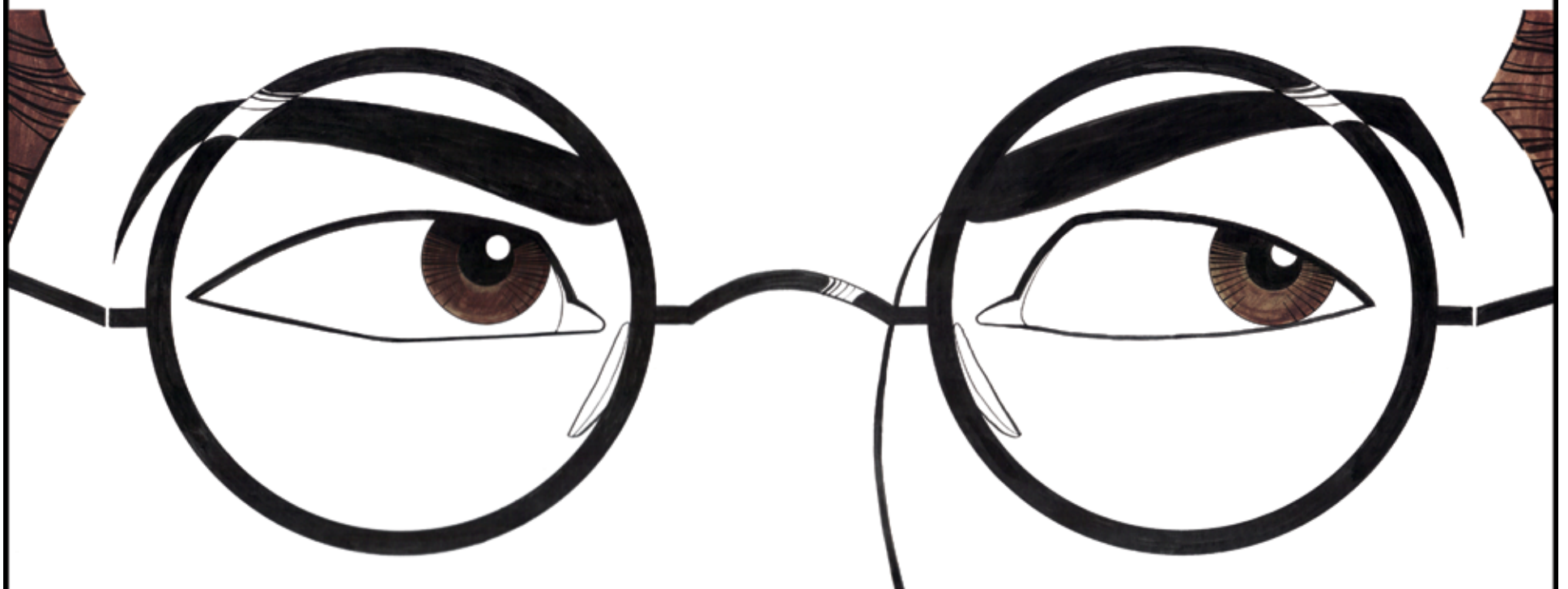


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What hath growth wrought?

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

At the end of 1996 I bought a tumble-down, hardscrabble farm near Waterford. It was to be just a weekend place, after some basic renovations: About \$3,000 to rid the house of termites. A similar amount to remove trash and junk from the house and barns. More to change kitchen counters, and so on.

OPINION

For several years this was my refuge, my escape from the hustle and bustle inside the Beltway and from the general rudeness and ugliness of Northern Virginia. As I drove from there towards the farm, my blood pressure would always drop around the time I passed Dulles, heading west.

Why Was That?

I loved the character of the old unpaved road, the lack of traffic, the peace and quiet and the animals from cow to crow, from dog to deer. Glorious sunsets over the Blue Ridge. Viewsheds of pastures

and vistas of forests. Clean air and dark skies.

My barns were something of an eyesore, but they were visible roots to the farm's agrarian past, which went back to 1760. Part of the house also reflected that history: Its central part was a log cabin. That connected me to Daniel Boone, Abe Lincoln.

There was also something novel and nice: Neighborliness. There weren't many houses nearby but every time I was rocking on the porch or working outside, someone driving by would turn into the drive, say hello and chat awhile.

A signature pleasure of those times was watching the hunt trot down our road, every rider waving and saying something pleasant before turning onto the next field and galloping off after the hounds.

Later I added onto the house and made it my full-time home.

Those Wondrous Days Are Gone

In 1996 Loudoun had 124,000 people. Today some 420,000 live here and there is more traffic on our road. Worse is the attitude of some newcomers, especially those who cringe at the sight of a dust mote on their shiny Escalade. "Pave it," they whine, claiming that the road is unsafe while it's usually only dust that bothers them.

The dust on our cars is a symbol that we are proud to live in the country.

When I was just a weekend-only resident, Leesburg had almost every store I needed – groceries, restaurants, gas stations and more. All it lacked was a Home

Depot, and that just meant a tolerable half-hour trip to the one in Ashburn.

Now there are many more stores and restaurants and banks and such. Now there are more choices, more of everything. Is that a good thing? If so, what consequences has this plentitude brought?

The hunt hasn't ridden down our road in several decades, and that's a pity.

But Things Are Pretty Nice

We still have the sunsets, the bucolic views, and peace and quiet more often than not. We have more neighbors, though our homes are not shoulder-to-shoulder as in a tract development and there remains a community of friendly folk.

I wrote recently about *Oikos* – the Greek concept of home. That warm feeling is still present, not just within the boundaries of our farm, but within most of western Loudoun. It would be an epic tragedy if we ever lose the *oikos* that is here.

What Could Lie Ahead?

The new General Plan calls for 208,000 more people over the next 17 years. More than 600,000 people in Loudoun County. Egad! Important roads are already bottlenecks; in the future will they just grind to a complete stop?

Big subdivisions and data centers might hit the west like a tsunami. Historic country roads might be widened and paved. The wildlife might be gone, as might the spirit of living here.

There might be a collective undertone of tension, and therapists would thrive.

The Dismal Science

My minor was Economics and so I

thought that some statistics might illuminate how Loudoun has changed since my halcyon days at the end of the Nineties. I found a lot of data, but despite Google's reach I was unable to find enough to make meaningful statistical comparisons.

I found this year's county's budget and the enormous chunk the school system takes, but not the numbers for 1996. I found per capita County debt in 2002, but not in 2023. There were 9,222 County and LCPS employees in 2005, but I couldn't find how many are there now.

The problem was not just the dearth of data, but also the need for context. How much budget growth has been due to inflation? Has the number of County employees increased by more than the rate of population growth? How much of the school system budget is simply wasted on "administration" at LCPS's headquarters? Are the bureaucrats' income keeping pace with inflation, while our income isn't? Has the value of our homes kept up with the growth of government debt or spending?

Google didn't find the data I would need, and in any event I didn't want to attempt some sort of overall econometric study. Economics is called "the dismal science" for a reason.

Subjectivity Suffices

We actually don't need numbers. Our fond feelings are grounded in subjectivity – things like beauty, quiet, peace, friendship. Those and other things make Loudoun special.

The future has threats: If we don't stop sprawl, will there be any farms at all? If we don't stop sprawl, will there be any horses at all? If we don't stop sprawl,

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I proudly support Sheriff Mike Chapman for reelection

Dear Editor:

I have served in law enforcement for more than 35 years, and as the chief of police in the Town of Middleburg for the past 11 years. I have also been the police chief in three other jurisdictions, and work as a consultant for police departments across the commonwealth. Additionally, in 2021 and 2022 I was the president of the Virginia Chief's of Police Association and Foundation, working with countless departments across Virginia.

LETTER

In that time, I have observed many accomplished law enforcement executives, but no one as capable as Mike Chapman, and no law enforcement agency as outstanding as the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office. Mike Chapman is a colleague, a friend, and a trusted partner who genuinely cares about the

people of Loudoun County.

A measure of a great leader is one who leads by example. To that end, Mike Chapman has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and service throughout his own career that he brings to LCSO every day ... and the citizens of Loudoun County have been the beneficiaries.

Sheriff Chapman's leadership has made Loudoun the safest major jurisdiction in the region, and he is responsible for the best trained, best educated, and most professional Sheriff's Office in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As chief of police for the Town of Middleburg, I have witnessed first-hand Sheriff Chapman's commitment to collaboration and public safety. Thanks to Mike Chapman, 100 percent of Middleburg's patrol staff are certified in Crisis Intervention Training. Middleburg has

also benefited from Sheriff Chapman's influence with DEA and other state and federal stakeholders as we collectively battle those who want to flood our communities with illegal drugs, especially heroin and fentanyl. Loudoun County is doing better in this fight than others, and we have Mike Chapman to thank for this.

It is for all these reasons that I proudly endorse Sheriff Mike Chapman for re-election. Loudoun County needs Mike Chapman for another four years. Any other outcome would put all our progress at risk.

I proudly announce my support for Mike Chapman for reelection as the Loudoun County Sheriff. I sincerely believe he has been a great Sheriff and will continue to make Loudoun County one of the safest counties in the region.

— A.J. Panebianco, Retired Chief of Police



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Affordable or attainable housing: Can you find it in Loudoun?

BY LAURA LONGLEY

These days, we hear a lot about Loudoun's lack of affordable homes, although most area residents would be hard pressed to tell you what that means and to whom it matters.

GOVERNMENT

Just to clarify: "affordable" and "attainable" in housing lingo are not the same thing.

"Affordable housing is subsidized housing," Erin Shine, founder of AttainableHome.com explains. "Typically, the subsidies come from the government and are designed to make homes affordable to those on low incomes.

"Attainable housing is housing that is affordable to households earning around the Area Median Income (AMI). Households living in attainable housing and earning between 80 percent and 120 percent of the AMI should not need to spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs."

Translate those percentages into dollars. In Loudoun, the AMI is \$99,700. With that income, you might be able to buy a house at \$720,000—the median sold price in Loudoun in March—especially if you're half of a two-income couple. But what about next year with home prices trending up 7.3 percent

year-over-year?

Now what's the likelihood that your average young teacher, middle-aged police officer, or senior citizen can swing a home purchase or even rent here? What kind of help, if any, can they expect when they make too much for government-subsidized affordable housing programs but not enough to buy or rent an "attainable" house, condo, or apartment.

Let's look at a few people who fit the profiles.

A licensed teacher with bachelor's degree in hand would start in the Loudoun County Public Schools in 2024

at a salary just under \$56,000. With that income, she's \$26,100 over the cutoff for Loudoun's Affordable Dwelling Unit (ADU) program. Therefore, she's not eligible for assistance to rent or buy, even though she works in the county and wants to live in it.

Instead, she needs to go shopping to spend no more than 30 percent of her income on housing. On her \$56,000 yearly salary, she can afford \$1,400/month. She'll have to add utilities and internet to that, plus car and gas expenses, especially if she only can find suitable housing outside Loudoun.

She'll probably have to do that: The average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Loudoun County is \$1,993 based on a survey of 30 rental listings conducted by Hello Data, Inc. and last updated on April 27. That's nearly \$600,

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FRIDAY, MAY 19 – Eat, Drink & Be Literary!

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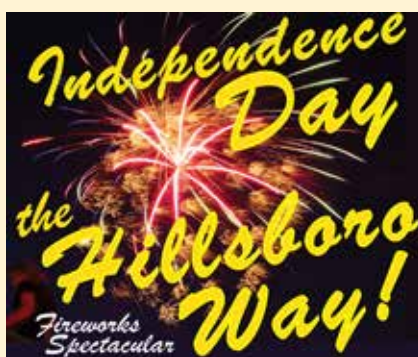
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| July 14 | <i>Texas Chainsaw Horns</i> | Aug. 25 | <i>Don't Look Up</i> |
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“We have to understand the burden on the citizens” Mayor Milan reminds Council as budget discussions grow heated

BY VALERIE CURY

As council members continue to discuss the proposed budget for FY24, their focus has been on reconciling the best interests of the town, the town staff and the town's 9,000 residents. At the Purcellville Town Council Work Session on April 25, ten of those 9,000 residents came to speak their minds in favor of a 5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for town staff.

Mayfair resident Caitlin Serotkin said she supported the proposed 5 percent cost-of-living increase. She also voiced her support for the Rt. 7/690 Interchange and the vacation of the floodplain easement.

GOVERNMENT “This project should be built in its entirety because it's a well-established part of the town's 2030 Comprehensive Plan and shouldn't be derailed by a rogue Planning Commission whose members don't even know that we have 2 high schools within our town limits,” she claimed.

Jeff Hedrick accused “some” town council members – “some decision makers” – of not knowing that Loudoun Valley High School was in the Town of Purcellville. He said he supported the 5 percent COLA increase and said a decrease “in a public forum like this is just appalling.”

Christa Kermode, an administrative assistant at the Purcellville Police Department and a town resident, said she was against lowering the COLA from 5 percent to 2 percent. “I find it irresponsible and ill informed ... It is unreasonable and frankly inappropriate to even suggest

the staff bear the burden of this town's utility debt by tightening our belts.”

“The COLA for town employees impacts not only our daily livelihood, but long-term retirement plans, as we are effectively working the same as the prior year,” Kermode said. “The suggested 2 percent COLA is insulting.”

Ignoring the fact that the town's explosive growth has placed an enormous demand on town costs and services, Kermode finished by saying that if “council or residents choose to have minimal to no growth, that's fine. However, fiscally that demands an increase in resident's contributions to cover the lack of new revenue.”

After council comments, Kermode approached the podium out of turn and interrupted the meeting, saying she got a 9 percent COLA and pay for performance combined last year, “and it didn't actually increase her salary. It was a one-time payment.”

Mitchel Seipt said he was concerned about an agenda item discussion labeled the “Will of the Majority.” This item was put on the agenda because the town council is supposed to communicate its desires and priorities to the town manager by council vote.

This action ensures that the town council speaks to the town manager with one voice, since various requests from seven individual members would waste staff's time.

Recently, Council Members Erin Rayner and Mary Jane Williams held a meeting on civility at town hall

with senior staff in attendance and without the knowledge of full council – until the very last minute. Despite staff expressing that their workload was already full, the meeting was held anyway.

At this meeting, the Will of the Majority was in the handout packet contained in the City of Williamsburg Policies and Procedures.

Per the handout, “Perhaps the most challenging aspect of City Council/staff relationships arises when an issue lacks Council consensus. Once a vote is taken and the issue decided, however, City Council speaks to the staff with a single voice. It is sometimes tempting for Council members holding the minority view to pursue their viewpoint, first through staff and later with Council.

“Nevertheless, the City staff must respond to the majority view, regardless of whether or not an individual Council member agrees, and regardless of whether or not the staff may agree. While staff may like to be responsive to each individual Council member, an impossible situation develops when staff is requested to accommodate a Council member apart from the Council-to-Manager-to-staff line of authority.”

Developer Casey Chapman complained that Council going through the FY24 proposed budget “line item at a time” was too much work for staff who get “all kinds of awards.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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Anzivino quits as interim town manager

BY VALERIE CURY

At the April 11 Purcellville Town Council meeting, Interim Town Manager John Anzivino abruptly quit. He had been slated to serve as interim town manager through the end of May. Anzivino expressed frustration over a council member's motion to lower a proposed staff raise in the FY24 budget from 5 to 2 percent, and said he was not given advance notice of the motion.

GOVERNMENT

For three weeks, the Town Council has been conducting a line-item review of the entire proposed FY24 budget, meeting for two days each week to review each department's budget requests. To optimize the efficiency of the review, Mayor Stan Milan recommended that council members come to meetings starting the week of April 10 prepared to propose any suggested amendments to the budget.

Some council members expressed concern about implementing a 5 percent staff cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) across the board, during a time when Purcellville citizens are paying more for their own costs of living.

The Town Manager's FY24 proposed budget is \$28,195,082 which is an increase of 18.2 percent over last year.

The proposed Utility Rate increase is 6.5 percent water and 9 percent wastewater.

Council Member Boo Bennett compared the situation to a family scrutinizing its budget to cut discretionary spending during an uncertain economic time. Noting this was her first time venturing into the public sector, Bennett said she would give a relatable example: "So when inflation is high, and maybe somebody loses their job or whatever happens in the family – we are not going on vacation this year ... It's one year and we do what we need to do. You don't hopefully get a divorce. Your kids hopefully don't walk out the door and never come back – or speak to you again. It's life, in my little world."

Council Member Carol Luke noted that while raises are important, they should not be guaranteed because they may not be possible every year in every economic situation. Other council members described their own pay increase expectations, comparing this with the proposed town staff increases. Council member Erin Rayner was vocal in her objection to the motion, indicating that staff must receive their proposed increase.

Anzivino pointed out that the Town of Warrenton gave their staff a 10 percent increase in the most

recent budget cycle. However, the Town of Warrenton has not yet approved their budget, but plans to do so in June. In comparing their salaries with other localities their size, they decided to propose the 10 percent salary increase to keep up with the salaries of other towns their size.

The Town of Leesburg approved a 3 percent COLA increase and an up to five percent increase based on the annual performance evaluation process.

During the budget process, Anzivino has voiced approval for Purcellville's staff salaries, saying he was pleased that their salaries are now up to the level with other larger localities. He had advocated for the 5 percent COLA increase, noting that the Purcellville community is "affluent."

He objected to the budget motion because he said no one notified him beforehand that the matter would be under discussion in that meeting, and he was not prepared. Referring to the motion to lower the proposed staff raises, Anzivino stated that he had never seen anything like this in his 40 years of municipal service. To be clear, the motion sought to lower the proposed percentage increase, but not eliminate it.

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said that the

Council was "about half way through the Town Manager's budget meetings. As members of this Town Council our obligation is to the citizens of this Town ...with our new outsourced legal agreement, we'll be saving the taxpayers more than \$100,000 annually."

At the beginning of the meeting, Council Member Boo Bennett made an agenda amendment to add two budget action items. At that point, Anzivino had not yet commented on her amendment.

At the time of the motion, including the ensuing discussion, Bennett made a motion to amend the FY24 budget increases for the COLA from 5 to 2 percent. Council Member Mary Jane Williams immediately responded that she supported the five percent increase.

Council Member Carol Luke said she "understood where Boo is coming from. I would love to be handing out money but we have citizens here that every time we go to them, they are worried about what they are paying for water ... Maybe some of us have raises all the time, but a lot of us don't and I think that impacts the citizens of our Town." Luke said she supports a two percent COLA.

"If I remember, said Council Member Ron Rise Jr., inflation was 8 percent this past year. I have always done public

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

Financing opportunity available for first-time homebuyers

Loudoun County is accepting applications from first-time homebuyers for funds made available through the Virginia Housing Sponsoring Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities Program. The program provides lower interest rates on homeowner loans in Loudoun County.

To qualify for the program, the prospective homebuyer must meet the following criteria:

- Have an annual household income maximum of:
 - ◊ \$162,000 for a household of two or fewer people (\$129,600 if using a VH Down Payment Assistance or Closing Cost Assistance Grant).
 - ◊ \$189,000 for a household of three or more people (\$151,200 if using a VH Down Payment Assistance or Closing Cost Assistance Grant).
- Be a first-time homebuyer, which

is defined as someone having had no ownership interest in real property in the past three years.

- Currently live and/or work in Loudoun County for a minimum of six months immediately prior to submission of the application.
- Purchase a new or existing home for \$665,000 or less, located in Loudoun County.
- Receive a mortgage loan from a VH-approved lender participating in VH mortgage loan program.

Homebuyers do not have to participate in Loudoun County's homeownership programs to use this VH program. Program participation is subject to availability and approval.

For full program information and eligibility requirements, visit loudoun.gov/HomeLoanPrograms or call the Loudoun County Department of Housing and Community Development at 703-737-8323.

Leesburg launches new land management system

The Town of Leesburg has officially launched its new land management system, eTRAKiT.

Through the Town's eTRAKiT online portal, customers are able to:

- Submit permit, land development and legislative land use applications such as rezonings and special exceptions.
- Submit electronic copies of plans and other required documentation.
- Track the status of applications and land development projects.
- Request pre-application and pre-submission meetings.
- Request inspections.
- Pay permit application fees.
- Access public records related to permits and plan review.

eTRAKiT is available for use by both residents and the development and contractor community. In the case of most development projects,

additional permits will be needed from Loudoun County upon issuance of a zoning permit from the Town.

The Loudoun County Department of Building and Development is responsible for issuing all trade related permits (e.g. building permits, plumbing permits, electrical permits). The County is expected to transition to its new land management system, LandMarc, in the near future.

"The launch of eTRAKiT comes following years of planning and the hard work of many members of our dedicated Town staff," stated Deputy Town Manager Keith Markel. "We believe the new system will continue the Town's focus on superior customer service to our residents and businesses."

The eTRAKiT site can be found online at <https://lee.csqrcloud.com/community-etrait>.

Nominations accepted for Governor's Awards on Volunteerism

Gov. Glenn Youngkin has announced that the administration is accepting nominations for the 2023 Virginia Governor's Awards on Volunteerism and Community Service. This is an annual award program that recognizes Virginians and organizations that volunteer their time to make a difference in their communities. Nominations will be accepted until Monday, June 19 at 5 p.m.

“Each year we celebrate the service of these individuals, organizations, and companies as a way to not only thank them for their extraordinary efforts, but to raise up all of our incredible volunteers and inspire all Virginians to serve,” said Youngkin. “It is an honor and a privilege to recognize the commitment of our statewide volunteers.”

The Virginia Governor's Awards on Volunteerism and Community Service honor individuals, community organizations, educational programs, and businesses that serve Virginians through volunteerism.

Individual awards will recognize one person each in the categories of youth, young adult, adult, and senior volunteers. Group honors will be awarded in the categories of faith-based organizations, community organizations, small businesses, and companies. This year's

honorees will be recognized in a ceremony this October.

More information about nomination process and the form to submit a nomination is available through the Virginia Service Commission at virginiasservice.virginia.gov/awards.

Governor Youngkin released a proclamation on April 16 recognizing National Volunteer Week, and the Virginians that dedicate over 130 million hours in service to communities across the Commonwealth each year.

Since 1984, Virginia governors have celebrated the impact of volunteers, and honored the significant contributions of Virginians across the state with the annual Governor's Awards on Volunteerism and Community Service.

“We are honored to spotlight the amazing contributions of Virginians who dedicate their time and talent to making a difference and the organizations that partner to offer these meaningful service opportunities in communities across Virginia,” said Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Littel. “Volunteers meet critical community needs, as well as inspiring a spirit of service in others across the Commonwealth.”

The Governor's Awards on Volunteerism and Community Service have recognized volunteers across

a wide span of focus areas, and the service provided by past honorees has touched the lives of thousands through providing support, resources, and healthy spaces for all to thrive.

Past honorees have played critical roles in increasing access to green spaces, protecting Virginia's natural resources, supporting youth and families impacted by foster care, and inspiring students to become Virginians that give back—just to name a few. Nominate an outstanding volunteer or service group for recognition today.

The Virginia Service Commission supports national service and community volunteerism across the Commonwealth. In addition to overseeing the annual grant competition that awards funding to AmeriCorps State and other national service programs, VSC actively works to support volunteerism through policy and program priorities, training and assistance, and recognizing individuals and organizations from all sectors for their contributions within their communities.

VSC is supported by the Virginia Service Foundation and is guided by the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism. For more about the work of VSC, go to VirginiaService.Virginia.Gov.

A Cappies review of *9 to 5* at Dominion High School on April 22

BY CECIL TURNER-VESELKA
FROM LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Clock in, type, fetch coffee and files, get pushed around by the men in your office, get passed up for a promotion, get laughed and leered at, clock out and walk home to a life you have no help running one day, you'll have had all you can take.

Herself an iconic, self-made woman from the seventies, Dolly Parton wrote *9 to 5 The Musical* based on her hit comedy film of the same name from 1980.

The musical features both the situational gags familiar to the era and the convictions of the era's working women: Violet, the experienced secretary at Consolidated, longs to be respected for all of the work she does, Judy hopes to make a career for herself without her husband, and Doralee wants to be seen and cared for beyond her good looks.

When Violet accidentally poisons their boss Hart's coffee, a cascade of hijinks leads the trio into several criminal charges, unexpected career opportunities, and, despite the cards stacked against them, self-actualization. Settle in with a TV dinner and prepare to laugh along because Dominion High School's production is the bomb.

The three women, Violet, Judy, and Doralee, had responsibility for both the

comedy and themes of the show, and each went about it with simple honesty.

Violet, played by Ella Greer, blazed with righteousness at being pushed aside, a fire which influenced her dry, violent wit as well. She filled the stage to the brim with a voice that matched the power of her character, and she bubbled with charisma during her tap number in the second act. Her convictions and pride made her an elegant foil for Katy Price's Judy.

This once wide eyed and uncertain character grew into her independence with an iron spine, culminating in a passionate rendition of *Get Out and Stay Out* which sent shivers through the air.

Violet and Judy were both explosive personalities and their counterweight was Ashley Anoubon Momo's Doralee, whose delicate convictions and lovely, floating vocals upheld the balance between flirty and firm that her character needed. She called herself a 'Backwoods Barbie,' but her personality was, by far, more her own than the title suggests. All three of them balanced their country-style harmonies well, and sold their outrageous comedic moments with the fundamental truth of the female experience that the show discusses.

Because the themes of the show are anchored within the time period, it

was important for the show to maintain a late seventies aesthetic. This was done extraordinarily well by Isadora Trimboli and the costume department. Every character was given an array of bright plaids and patterns, with a new outfit in nearly every scene.

Each brought dimension to their personality – Violet's sensible pants suits, Judy's shoulder pads, and Doralee's frilly dresses all brought vibrancy to their dynamics. This commitment to period was aided by the men of the show: the sleazy and vicious Franklin Hart (Chase Bochenek), for example, firmly sold his horridness in a stomach-turning way and Violet's gentle love interest Joe (Eli Quinones) was endearingly shy and soft. The show was run crisply by Andy Jayner and crew, so the sitcom experience never lost its luster.

Dominion High School's production shows how powerful friendships between women can be, and how even stereotypes that would be considered old-fashioned these days callous executive, abandoned housewife, and attractive secretary signify complex women with pride, guts, and aspirations beyond the holes they've been placed in. The women of Dominion's *9 to 5 The Musical* are no one's fool, and their production brings life to a mundane office full of dreams.

Loudoun County Transit adjusts Silver Line Bus service

Loudoun County Transit has extended hours for Silver Line bus routes until 11 p.m. except for Routes 332, 333 and 391 which will end earlier in the evening. In addition, the frequency of the following routes – Routes 312, 321, 351, 381, 382, 391 – are increasing to give riders more flexibility in their commutes. All updated Silver Line bus routes and operating times are posted at loudoun.gov/buschanges.

Silver Line Service

Silver Line bus routes provide weekday service to and from convenient local stops, including connecting to the Ashburn and Loudoun Gateway stations in Loudoun County and to the Innovation and Reston Town Center stations in Fairfax County. Additionally, the Silver Line routes connect to some of the county's park and rides lots, which are mapped at loudoun.gov/parkandridelots.

All Loudoun County Transit buses are equipped with electronic fare boxes that accept SmarTrip® cards for simple transition to Metrorail service. Everything commuters need to know about riding Metro is posted at loudoun.gov/silverline.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

Hillsboro's inaugural Sunday Farmers Market runs from 1-3 p.m.

Hundreds attended the first Hillsboro Farmers Market on Sunday, April 16, which is slated to run each Sunday at Hillsboro's Historic Old Stone School. through November 12. The market is located at the Old Stone School, 37098 Charles Town Pike, Hillsboro, VA 20132. The hours of the market are from 1-3 p.m.

"The opening day was a great success," said Hillsboro's Hill Top Farm owner Trent Ashman, who is spearheading the initiative. "All of our vendors did well and are especially pleased with the great location and the enthusiasm of the community."

Vendors included Hill Top Farm, featuring beef and pork; Hillsboro's Stonybrook Farm with fresh chicken, eggs, vegetables, breads and baked goods; Lovettsville's Basking Bee Farm & Apiary selling honey; Vale of the Blue Ridge Maple Farm offering maple syrup; Happy Creek Cheeses artisan goat milk cheeses and products; Wren's Rest Gardens fresh-cut flowers and Aperture Coffee Roasters offering exotic single origin coffees.

Ford's Fish Shack food truck was also



on site for the opening as a preview to its ongoing satellite Hillsboro location set to begin later this month. Ford's will be joining longtime Hillsboro fixture Moo Thru Ice Cream on the Millstone Plaza at the Old Stone School Thursdays through Sundays and during the Town's Friday night Music in The Gap summer concert series and other special events.

Hillsboro Mayor Roger Vance, who was joined by the Hillsboro Town Council for the ribbon-cutting, said, "We are very encouraged by the turn out for the market, which is indicative of the desire of western Loudoun for reliable, one-stop access to healthy staples straight from our area and regional farmers."



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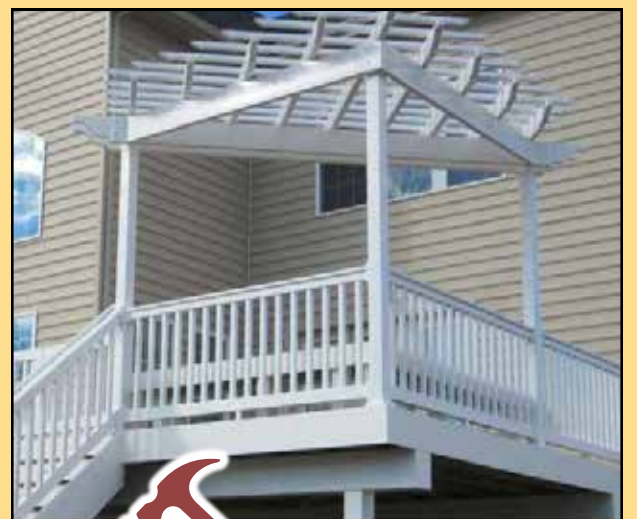
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The Clothing Closet and SimplyBe Coffee grand opening in Leesburg

The Clothing Closet and SimplyBe Coffee, two gospel enterprises of Tree of Life Ministries, celebrated their Grand Opening at 208 Church Street, SE, in Leesburg, on Friday, April 21.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held with Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk and Loudoun Chamber President Tony Howard in attendance to help cut the ribbon. SimplyBe Coffee was previously located on Edwards Ferry Road, and this is the second Clothing Closet location.

COMMUNITY

The Clothing Closet is a boutique which sells new and gently used clothing for men, women, and children at affordable prices, as well as providing free clothing to those in need through their voucher program. SimplyBe Coffee is a unique coffee shop that

not only serves coffee and treats, but also provides workplace and internship opportunities for those with disabilities and special needs.

The Clothing Closet in Purcellville opened in June 2020, and has provided 582 individuals from across Loudoun County with free clothing. Opening a second location allows Tree of Life Ministries to not only serve more individuals, but to provide a more convenient location for those coming from eastern and central Loudoun.

Their Leesburg location has already served several individuals since it opened on March 31. Additionally, through CAST and work transition programs, an average of 8 volunteers work in the store weekly.

SimplyBe Coffee provided 29 individuals with disabilities, work opportunities since it opened. They have also provided around \$27,000 in free coffee and snacks to the community in 2022, through Tuesday "Impact Days".

They hope to increase these opportunities as they continue to be a gathering place for those looking for a special experience when grabbing a cup of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



WHAT'S UP WITH BROADBAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 Friedrich pointed out that the volume of requests for this labor-intensive field work by the utility companies is now at unprecedented levels. As a result, APB is experiencing greater variance in the Make-Ready Construction (MRC) process but expects much less in actual fiber construction once the poles are approved. So, fiber construction vendors now prefer to have more Make-Ready done before they release fiber construction crews.

Supervisor Caleb Kershner (R-Catoctin)

agreed that the two-step approach made "economic sense." He asked whether the project would still come in on its contractual deadline—July 2024; Friedrich assured him it would. Supervisor Tony Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) added, "Love it."

Less likely to love this news are the homeowners who, according to the original VATI grant proposal, would have had fiber broadband installed as their neighborhood poles were approved. On that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

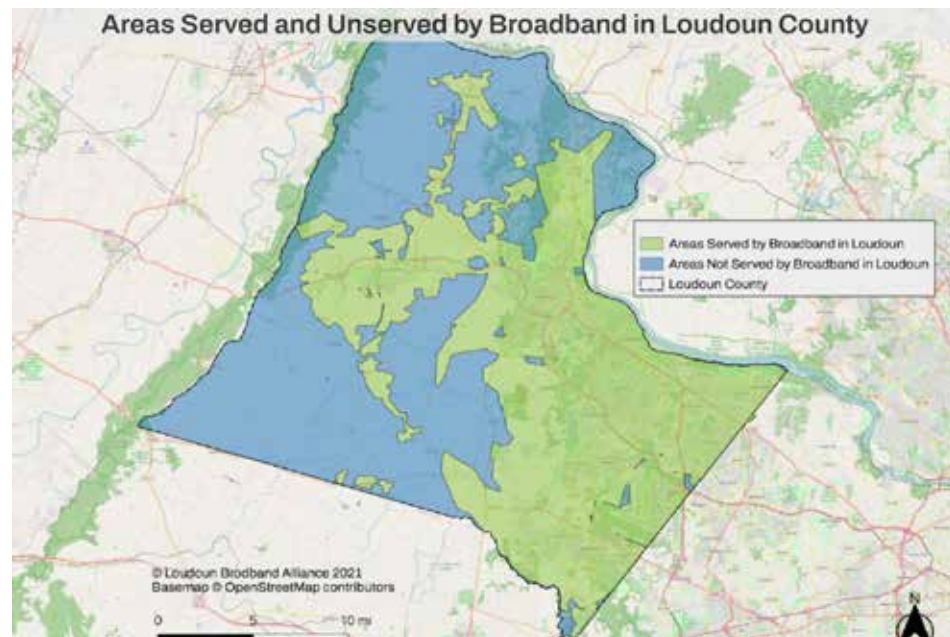




Photo: Angela Kable Johnson

Opening season for the Purcellville Cannons in late May

The Purcellville Cannons are excited to begin their 2023 baseball season. The Cannons are a summer collegiate team that plays in the prestigious Valley Baseball League.

Home games are played at Fireman's Field in Purcellville. Players from all over the country make up the 35-man roster. This will be the seventh year the Cannons have played in Purcellville.

The team will open the season by hosting the National Native American Team on Tuesday, May 30 at 7 p.m. The Valley

League season begins on Thursday, June 1 when the team will host the Front Royal Cardinals.

Last season the team finished second in the North Division and was eliminated in the semi-final round of the playoffs. Being a non-profit organization, the Cannons are able to stay viable with the generous help from businesses, civic groups, and individuals.

Currently the team is in need of host families to house players. If you would like to host a player, provide a team meal, or become a partnering sponsor with the team, please visit the team website Purcellvillecannons.com. For further inquiries contact Jim Singhas, Director of Operations at 540-539-3123 or email coachsing@ymail.com.

Shiloh Manor Farm offers a taste of Normandy

Join Chef Erik for The Taste of Normandy at Shiloh Manor Farm on May 13, for the fourth dinner in their five-part series exploring and sampling the culinary treasures of France. The farm is located at 14781 Berlin Turnpike, Purcellville, VA. 20132.

With the dramatic English Channel beating at its front door, Normandy has a distinctive taste and feel that is unlike anything else you experience in France. Normandy was a self-governed duchy and did not even become a part of France until the 1500's.

The region was originally populated by Celts having more in common with their neighbors across the English Channel than with the other Gallic tribes to the south. In the early medieval period, the region was a frequent target of Vikings, many of whom settled in the area. They left their genetic mark on the faces and customs of the region which eventually became known as "Normandy," from the old Scandinavian word for "north-man."

The Taste of Normandy at Shiloh Manor Farm features the authentic cuisine of northwestern France. The menu begins with a choice of *Coquilles Saint-Jacques Gratinée*, fresh scallops baked in a white wine cream sauce and covered in a dusting of breadcrumbs and Gruyère cheese golden brown and caramelized to perfection, or *Roulés Jambon-Fromage*, a thin buttery pastry rolled and baked with ham and Gruyère cheese.

The entrée offers *Sole à la Normande*, a baked filet of sole, garnished with mussels, oysters, mushrooms and shrimp served with sauteed potatoes and just harvested spring vegetables, or *Joue de Bœuf*. Cooked with apples, cider, carrots, pearl onions and a slew of spices and seasonings.

As a vegetarian entrée they are offering *Tart au Maroilles*, which is a cheese tart served with sauteed mushrooms and spring vegetables. They are also serving a cheese course and of course a choice of deserts.

To view the full menu, go to <https://shiloh-manor.com/>.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

or 42 percent, over her budget.

Particularly sad to see are senior citizens heading for the exit because they can no longer manage the property taxes or stretch their Social Security payments and savings to stay.

Take the senior citizen who moved to western Loudoun in the early '90s, before AOL and data centers, to work as a manager for a local contractor. He bought a ramshackle historic house at a bargain price for his wife, himself, and two children. He fixed it up and lived there happily, all the while dutifully paying taxes to help build more and more schools in the east. Then the Great Recession arrived; he lost his job and, eventually, his home, selling short at \$330,000. It just went on the market for \$650,000. He knows they could never buy it back. Today, with the kids gone, he and his wife rent a small house on a farm in Clarke County.

These are the kinds of people who would—or did—live in Loudoun County but just can't swing it without help or changes that make homes more "attainable."

What, if anything, is being done to help them?

The Board of Supervisors and county staff talk about "affordable housing," but

strictly speaking, they've homed in on "attainable housing" and "the missing middle." As staff pointed out in the supervisors' Strategic Initiatives Work Plan of 2018 "the missing middle" includes "a range of housing types that lie between the expensive housing monocultures of single-family detached homes on large lots and large-scale, luxury apartments. Typical missing middle housing types include the duplex, triplex, fourplex, courtyard apartment, bungalow court, townhouse, multiplex, live-work units, and accessory dwelling units."

The report recognized "the importance of supporting a vibrant economy by providing housing that is affordable to households with incomes below 100 percent of the area median income (AMI) and particularly below 60 percent AMI, in the County."

To address this and other housing issues, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP) in September 2021. Its housing goal is to ensure that people who want to live and work in Loudoun can access housing they can afford. The UHNSP sets annual goals for attainable housing of 20 percent or 8,200 units of the total forecasted new homes (40,950) by 2040 and affordable access to an additional 7,800

for a total of 16,000 attainable housing opportunities.

The county has already implemented a new Rental Housing Acquisition and Preservation Loan Program with a funding award to support the acquisition of 102 market affordable units that will become rent-restricted affordable housing for 30 years.

Additionally, since 2017, the county has been implementing an Affordable Multi-Family Rental Housing Loan Program that has provided over \$25 million in gap financing to support seven Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) rental communities. The Board of Supervisors also has committed to providing an amount equal to one-half penny of the real property tax rate to support affordable housing in the county, or approximately \$6 million. Plus, several new positions have been created to support the fair housing goals of the UHNSP.

Zoning is a huge factor in the county's ability to add moderate-and low-income homes. As part of the UHNSP implementation, Loudoun County is undergoing a wholesale zoning ordinance rewrite. One piece of the zoning ordinance rewrite aims to improve the county's inclusionary zoning program as well as to make other changes that could encourage more

affordable and attainable housing.

Loudoun's plan is now part of a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Regional Fair Housing Plan that was developed with seven other member governments. Loudoun's partners are the District of Columbia; the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Prince William County in Virginia; and the City of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County in Maryland.

Among the top five barriers to fair housing in the region are (1) lack of affordability, (2) government failure (government inability to address the issue), (3) racial discrimination (4) lack of housing stock, and (5) lack of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility.

The team identified the following top five solutions: (1) more programs and staff with culture and language competency, (2) creation of accessible housing for persons with disabilities, (3) creation of accessible housing grants, (4) improved building code, zoning, and planning regulations, and (5) more navigation support (i.e., housing counseling).

The regional report will be delivered to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on May 10.

ANZIVINO QUILTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

sector work and I always hated raises because I knew they were never coming, so it's tough." He said he supported the five percent COLA.

Council Member Erin Rayner said a five percent increase "is the least we can do for a staff that works incredibly hard." She said, "I think it's kinda [sic] insulting to give them two percent, especially with inflation being 8 percent."

"This is a tough call," said Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut. "We've had some unexpectedly high inflation this past year, but I'd also like to note that we're now with respect to our employees' pay at equity compared to other towns." He said the council is looking at ways to enhance pay for town employees, including through COLA increases but that he is in favor of reducing the proposal for this year.

Mayor Milan echoed that he felt the same way. He said he thought that two percent was reasonable in the current economic climate. He went on to say, "There are citizens in town that have ...," but was interrupted by a town citizen seated in the audience. The citizen, David Milam, raised his voice, interjecting, "In what universe?"

Mayor Milan responded, "It's the universe we are living in ... But the citizens of Purcellville have been suffering the same amount of pain we all have ..."

At this point David Milam, began pumping his fist in a threatening

manner and mouthing "Boo" several times. At one point he appeared ready to jump out of his seat.

Mayor Milan consequently asked Purcellville Police Chief Cynthia McAlister to "escort him out of here please." McAlister looked down at her lap and did not respond to Mayor Milan. David Milam called out, "I'll leave on my own!" and slammed the chamber door behind him.

Mayor Milan asked Chief McAlister why she failed to respond to his request. She said, "Every person has the right to freedom of speech." She said the resident was not unruly and that he simply "did something with his hand one time."

David Milam has previously served on the Community Policing Advisory Committee with Chief McAlister.

Council Member Bennett acknowledged that "It's quite something to sit up here and watch someone at the back of the room, and I see various smirks ... but to have somebody literally shaking their fist at me ... We are human beings, and we have to adjust."

Mayor Milan, returning to the discussion at hand said, "We're looking at an increase in water, sewer, and also the pay for performance. It's a lot of budget constraints. We are looking at increasing the staff population - we cannot keep on giving raises and hiring more people ... we have to do what's necessary to make the budget reasonable."

Anzivino stated that, "This is a community that does a lot with very

little. It is an affluent community ... and I recognize the Council's right to set the rates of employees on a cost-of-living basis ... but I think it's the wrong thing to do ... It's a surprise this evening," he said, referring to the fact that this meeting wasn't a budget meeting.

"You reduced the budget," said Anzivino, "by \$100,000 by economizing in legal services. You've reduced the tax rate and saved \$90,000 and there probably are more reductions to be had in the budget. But I will honestly tell you that working under this arrangement where surprises come up in the middle of a council meeting is unusual. It is unusual; it's not something I'm willing to continue with."

Mayor Milan said Council have gone over the budget for the past three weeks and "we've asked questions about where the numbers are ... based on a 5 percent increase and 4 percent pay for performance. So the budget as it stands already includes the 5 percent pay raise."

Vice Mayor Bertaut said "there's never a good time to give the Town Council the opportunity to actually meaningfully shape the budget and thereby represent the people ... There's never anything on the agenda about changing the budget in any way, shape or form."

"We as a Town Council cannot again be forced to choose between either accepting or rejecting a budget in its totality at the end of the budgeting season, and just before it has to go in operation."

Milan asked, "When will we be able to lighten the burden on the citizens as they get ready to pay their taxes, and water bills?"

Bennett said, "At the last meeting it was stated if there were any budget amendments, to bring them up, so I thought that was the process," and she said Anzivino was in the room. She had asked, "when are we going to make suggestions and not have to pull an all-nighter?"

Anzivino returned the discussion to dissolving his commitment to serve Purcellville, stating, "I am here because I want to be here. I came because I know you needed help ... I am ready to go ... I just think it's time for me to go ... I just don't want to be here anymore."

The week of April 6 foreshadowed a challenging week ahead for Mayor Stan Milan.

A Loudoun newspaper displayed an editorial cartoon in their April 6 edition, portraying him - along with Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut - at a dais along with a noose in the Town seal of Purcellville.

The cartoon focused only on these two elected officials, indicating they make unilateral decisions. In fact, the cartoon's seeming reference to the termination of the former Town Manager David Mekarski's contract fails to acknowledge that a unanimous 7-0 council vote in a public meeting made that decision.

Former Purcellville Planning Director

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

WHAT'S UP WITH BROADBAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

schedule, service was to reach rural residents sequentially, beginning now.

As for supply chain issues, Loudoun staff noted, "APB reports that its inventory levels and lead times for Outside Plant (OSP) fiber and electronics are consistent with planned levels." They cautioned, however, "while supply chain risk is currently under control, it will remain an area of focus throughout the network deployment."

How the west won fiber

Curiously, it was COVID that ultimately launched a western Loudoun broadband initiative.

In the early fall of 2020, as children in rural Loudoun went "back to school" online and parents worked remotely, several residents in the west with experience in cable and fiber came together to form the Loudoun Broadband Alliance (LBA). According to their early mission statement, none of the available providers of FTTH—Fiber to the Home—"offers an affordable and widely available service that meets the federal definition of Broadband Internet access ... All of the options are expensive compared to the options available in a suburban area. The typical rural home is paying twice as

much as a suburban home but receives one half to one third of the download speed compared to the suburban home, and the reliability of the rural options is much lower.

"The impact of this situation," LBA concludes, "is that rural residents pay more for standard service and are forced to seek out alternative options for Internet access."

The LBA group got to work, and on November 17, 2020, the two western Loudoun supervisors, Buffington and Kershner, brought forward a Board Member Initiative to take steps to move delivery and expansion of broadband service forward in areas identified as unserved and underserved. The County and LBA followed up by jointly surveying area homes to determine which were wired by Comcast, Verizon, or another provider and which were not. Their final count of homes needing service: 8,629.

By December of 2021, the Virginia (VA) Telecommunications Initiative—a new Fiber-to-the-Home grant program—awarded Loudoun County more than \$17,524,000 based on its VATI application with contractor All Points Broadband. Loudoun, which serves as the grant administrator, also committed to a contribution of \$12,425,000 in American

Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. All Points Broadband is to contribute more than \$20,000,000.

In July 2022, Virginia issued the final VATI grant award, which kicked off the 24-month project period. According to the grant application and award, Loudoun's rural residents would start seeing "last mile" construction to utility poles at the end of the first quarter of 2023 and fiber installations in the second quarter of 2023. By July 2024, All Points Broadband would have reached substantial completion of the network.

That was the general understanding of rural residents until the April 18 Board of Supervisors meeting when the staff report explained the new, two-part timetable, making it clear the Cladded Glass installations south of Purcellville were not part of the APB project.

Another 180 homes left out of the original count for the VATI grant have been identified by staff, but according to VATI grant guidelines, they cannot be added to the existing project. However, the Board of Supervisors has approved ARPA funds to connect them. It remains for County staff to release an RFP and identify an internet service provider that can meet requirements for funding compliance, service, cost, and completion.

According to All Points Broadband, the installation charge, or "customer contribution," for the main project will depend on how many customers register. (If an address is currently served by another wired provider, it is not eligible for this project.)

The greater the customer interest, the lower the upfront cost. APB says the monthly service fees are expected to approximate those of other cable and fiber-optic internet service providers, such as Comcast and Verizon FIOS. Cladded Glass, for example, provides monthly fiber service for 100Mb/s at \$99, 500Mb/s at \$125, and 1Gb/s at \$145.

Although Loudoun County government serves as the rural fiber project administrator, it is not responsible for providing the broadband services or for determining, revising, and collecting fees.

Each of the 8,629 homes originally counted as prospective APB FTTH customers must be registered so their locations are included in the fiber network. The only way to register is to go online and submit your information at fiber.allpointsbroadband.com. That website feeds directly into APB network design. Look for more details and updates at Broadband Expansion | Loudoun County, VA - Official Website.

Brubaker announces run for Catoctin District School Board

Daniel A. Brubaker is a candidate for the Loudoun County School Board in the Catoctin District.

Brubaker, a postdoctoral researcher, professor, and author whose work with Quran manuscripts is known worldwide, has lived in Loudoun since 2013. Brubaker and his wife Latha live in Lovettsville and have three daughters.

He has spoken publicly before the Loudoun County School Board, the Board of Supervisors, and written letters to the editor. Said Brubaker, "Since 2019, an activist majority of the LCSB has not listened to parents.

"Time and again, they brushed aside legitimate and reasonable concerns in favor of partisan political agendas. Our children seem like an afterthought to their partisan agenda. This situation is simply unacceptable, and that's why I am running. I will represent the parents and children of our wonderful community," he said.

Brubaker's platform is to affirm par-



ental rights and student safety. He opposes racist pedagogies, and supports a restoration of excellence and opportunity for all children.

According to Brubaker, his campaign issues are:

Unions: On March 23, 2023, four members of the Loudoun County School Board (Mahedavi, Reaser, Serotkin, and Ogedegbe), voted to allow collective bargaining in LCSB, transferring authority that truly belongs to the taxpayers and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

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Leesburg launches dog-friendly campaign

With Leesburg's growing reputation as a dog-friendly destination, a new campaign, "Leesburg Loves Dogs," is being launched to encourage locals and visitors to bring their furry companions to explore the town's many attractions and businesses.

The campaign includes a variety of features designed to make it easy for dog owners to plan their visit and enjoy their time in Leesburg with their four-legged friends. Features include:

Dog-friendly Business Directory: The campaign includes a comprehensive directory of businesses in Leesburg that welcome dogs. The directory labels whether dogs are allowed inside or outside and whether there are water bowls, treats, food, and dog products available for purchase. This feature ensures that visitors can easily find businesses that cater to their needs and preferences.

Branded Sticker: To make it easy for visitors to identify dog-friendly businesses, the campaign offers a branded sticker that participating businesses

can place in their windows. The sticker lets visitors know that their dogs are welcome and encourages them to explore the business with their furry companions.

Sample Itineraries: The campaign offers several pre-planned itineraries that cater to different interests, such as outdoor activities, food and drink, and shopping. Each itinerary includes dog-friendly options, so visitors can explore the town with their dogs without worrying about whether they are welcome.

"Leesburg is a town that welcomes everyone, including our furry friends," said Leesburg's Tourism Specialist Allison Wood who's excited about the new campaign and the town's growing reputation as a dog-friendly destination.

"We hope this campaign encourages more people to visit Leesburg with their dogs and enjoy all that our town has to offer." The "Leesburg Loves Dogs" campaign is now live and available for visitors and locals to use.

To access the directory and itineraries, visit the campaign's website at www.leesburgva.gov/lovesdogs.

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BRUBAKER ANNOUNCES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

voters into the hands of the Loudoun Education Association.

Less than a week after the board passed collective bargaining, they requested an additional \$3.3 million in funding to hire thirteen employees tasked specifically to deal with collective bargaining.

“We need to treat our teachers and staff well, while fighting to undo the collective bargaining boondoggle. We have a very short window to reverse course before the unions become entrenched.”

Oppose CRT and other Marxist pedagogies: Critical Theory is propaganda designed to take down justice and replace it with collectivist authoritarianism. It has no place in our schools because it is false, and because its insistence that one’s race determines one’s value and moral status is fundamentally un-American.

Parents are not enemies: LCSB exists to serve the taxpayers, parents, and children of Loudoun County. Parents have a right to know what their kids are learning, and to be partners with the schools. It is utterly inappropriate for school personnel to keep secrets from parents of minor children.

Teachers deserve our thanks: Our teachers are some of the most important people in the lives of our children.

They deserve a positive working environment, and generous compensation.

Kids should be safe when at school: School safety means physical safety as well as safety from moral and mental harm. I believe this school board has gone out of their way to keep obscene materials in schools. This school board covered up the rape of a minor in a bathroom in order to pass a policy (8040) which further endangers our children.

Opportunity and challenge: The class of 2024 is scheduled to be the last to have class rankings because members of the current school board removed them in the name of “equity.”

“When I am on the school board,” he said, “I will move immediately to restore class rankings and to ensure that all students can rise to their individual potential.”

Fiscal restraint: The taxpayers of Loudoun County deserve good management of their funds. Even though teachers are the heart of any educational enterprise, the LCSB has focused on expanding the administrative bureaucracy.

“I intend to help restore the transparency and trust that parents deserve from our schools.”

Brubaker can be reached at Brubakerforeveryone@gmail.com or go to www.brubakerforeveryone.com.

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"WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...",
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Chapman said that the town planning commission needed more time to work on the zoning ordinance with the consultant and added, "The consultant needs more money to go through the zoning issues." He questioned the impact of the zoning updates to the zoning ordinance. "How will it impact the town and these zoning districts?"

Chapman is not happy with some of the zoning proposals in the update, as he wants more dense zoning and more uses added to certain districts so he doesn't have to go through a public process.

Brian Dean expressed concern about Mayor Stan Milan asking Chief Cynthia McAlister to escort David Milam, who was out of camera range, out of the council chambers when he threatened Council Member Boo Bennett by violently pumping his fist, mouthing her name several times, and rising off his seat during the April 11 Town Council meeting.

David Milam, more subdued at this meeting, spoke about the town staff salaries being too low, referring to a Baker Tilly study. "That report said that the town staff here, by comparison with similar towns and municipalities, are at 25 percent lower than other comparable places. I just thought that was horrendous."

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said that the previous interim town manager pointed

out that the Town of Purcellville is now "in terms of salaries, on par with our surrounding and comparable municipalities."

Mayfair resident Daniel Carvill said he supported the 5 percent COLA increase for staff. "Your staff is one of the most valuable intangible assets. They are the glue that keeps this town together."

Council Member Carol Luke said she wanted the residents to know that "we do care – we care for our staff." She said that many town residents work in areas where they get a percentage of COLA, "but that's not the case for everybody. We have to find a way that we can meet as many needs as possible and satisfy the budget that has been a little bit extreme."

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said one of the issues he ran on was fiscal responsibility. "In looking at that, I represent more than 9,000 citizens of Purcellville. I want to point out that the pay increase that is baked in to this budget right now is not 5 percent. It's 9 percent – 5 percent is COLA and 4 percent is budgeted as a performance-based increase."

Bertaut said the town gave a 6 percent COLA and 2 different bonuses last year – "not all of which were applied to every employee."

"In the budget we have before us today – it's the second budget we have in a row that presents us with a double digit increase in the total cost of the budget."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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Administered by Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services

"WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND...",
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

He said the budget increase this year is more than 18 percent.

"As I pointed out most of our residents didn't get a 6 percent COLA within the last fiscal year. They didn't get 2 bonuses and they aren't looking to get 9 percent either."

Bertaut continued, "Every percentage point of pay increase when spread across the entire staff is \$91,500. The whole 9 percent is the same thing as adding 4.5 cents on the real estate rate. This also flows through to the utility fund via chargebacks.

"So your water rates go up when pay increases. As Town Council members, we are responsible for the overall

community. We're here to provide safety, and a variety of services, but we need to do so in a fiscally prudent manner."

Mayor Stan Milan said the council has "to look at the total picture of what we are doing here" and not burden 9,000 residents who have limited budgets. He said if the Council approves a total of 9 percent COLA and pay for performance, then this will carry over to the already high-water rates. "Everyone's getting a pay raise, but you are sticking it to me on the water."

Milan said he heard from staff that he's hurting their livelihood, but "we have 9,000 citizens who are saying the same thing." Everybody is going through economic hard times right now, he added. "We have to understand the burden on the citizens."

ANZIVINO QUILTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Don Dooley, also named in the cartoon, volunteered his resignation before a newly elected Mayor Milan was even sworn into office. Dooley is the person caught on a hot mic, speaking for an hour and twenty minutes to a local developer and telling him, "Whatever you want, I'll make it happen."

Supervisor Tony R. Buffington (R-Blue Ridge) proudly displayed the

cartoon on his Facebook page, commenting that he wasn't the only one "baffled by the lack of responsible decision making by Mayor Milan and his majority." He later removed the cartoon and apologized to Milan for posting it, saying he didn't notice the "despicable" image.

Buffington has consistently supported pro-growth candidates in the Town of Purcellville elections.

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THE LEADER OF THE BAND, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

now focus on as well.

After so many years, Reaves does not think that the methodology of teaching has changed. "There is no magic formula. You start small and work up. It's 15 percent talent and 85 percent work." As far as any future advice for students and/or teachers, Reaves doles out his two mottos: strive for better each time; the only thing that gets in the way of success is attitude.

Once June 9 LVHS graduation has marked Reaves' retirement, the living legacy will be on hand if needed to transition Stone Bridge High School's Megan Stallings as she starts with LVHS.

Rick Reaves will not go quietly however. His Rick Reaves Jazz played on the stage at the annual Purcellville Music and Arts Festival on April 29. They will also be a part of the Hillsboro Concert Series in the Gap, August 11 at 7 p.m.

HOUSTON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

will we want to live here at all?

A Note On My Title

In 1844 Samuel F. B. Morse transmitted the first telegraph message, from Washington to Baltimore. "What hath God wrought!" was his exclamatory message. My title, "What hath growth wrought?" is meant to be reflective. In

other words, think about whether having 600,000 people would wreak havoc upon our lives. (It will.)

Charlie Houston developed over six million square feet of major office buildings in the south, but after retiring early and moving to Paeonian Springs he has been deeply involved in land conservation.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

suggests that social media use is not a direct cause of ADHD. However, frequent use of social media may be associated with increased ADHD symptoms.

Additionally, it's important to remember that self-diagnosis is never a substitute for a professional diagnosis. If you are concerned about ADHD for yourself or your child or teen, it's important to consult a qualified healthcare provider for an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan.

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr. Mike" is a clinical psychologist in private practice. He can be reached at 703-723-2999 and is located at 44095 Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

THE CLOTHING CLOSET, CONT. FROM PAGE 16

coffee. Their new location includes more space, outdoor seating, and is located just upstairs from the Clothing Closet, so everyone is encouraged you to stop by and eat, drink, and shop.

Tree of Life Ministries serves Loudoun County with the purpose of reaching out to the poor and need in the community. They have been providing food, life skills, shelter and clothing, healthcare in the form of medical vouchers, and financial and other forms of relief to residents of Loudoun County for over a decade.

To learn more, go to www.tolministries.org or contact Jennifer Del Grande at jdelgrande@tolministries.org.

LOUDOUN COUNTY TRANSIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Stay Informed

Loudoun County encourages bus riders to stay informed about any changes to the county's bus services by visiting loudoun.gov/buschanges for current service changes. Bus riders may also subscribe to bus rider alerts at loudoun.gov/busbiz to receive email and text alerts.

In addition, Loudoun County Transit riders may download the Transit app for free on Google Play or the Apple Store. After downloading the app, set your favorite routes to begin receiving notifications for the buses you ride. For more information about the app, visit loudoun.gov/transitapp.

You can sign up to receive email and text news flashes from Loudoun County in the transit news category at loudoun.gov/notifyme.

More Transit Information

Loudoun County Transit offers local, Silver Line, commuter, and paratransit bus services, as well as a broad range of rider and commuter services, including information about ride sharing. For more information about the full range of Loudoun County's transit and commuter services, visit loudoun.gov/transit.

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

assumes ownership of the site - with maybe an historic marker paying homage to what came before. In fact, I would applaud a good deal more of this sort of thing in our area - giving a nod to our precursors in walking this part of the planet.

But, however this may play out, I've a distinct feeling that - as I periodically drive by the former site of the Tillett Auction Barn, I'll see young 4-H members and their families, and their animals and other various entries to those bygone events, from the Loudoun County Fair: the

squealing pigs, the lowing cows and the humorous repartee from the auction guys. And I might even conjure up, in my mind's eye, a vision of good ol' Chuck Thornton - with a twinkle in his eye and good-natured mischief in his heart. And now, you may - with my hearty blessings - as well.

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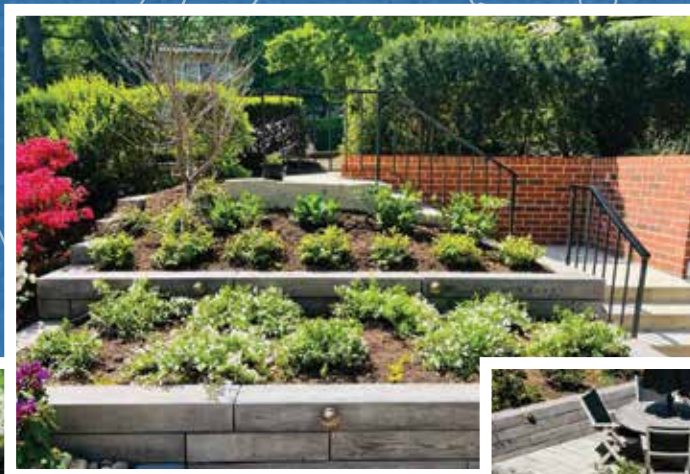
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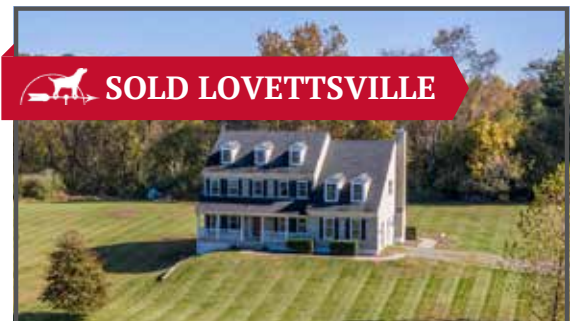
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